

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Status of the Claims

Claims 11 and 14-43 are pending in this patent application, among which claims 11, 21, and 41 are independent. Claims 16, 19¹, 25, and 28 have been withdrawn from consideration in view of a prior Election of Species Requirement. Claims 1-10 and 12-13 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Allowability of the Claims

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 21-24, 26-27, and 29-40 and indicating the allowability of claims 12, 14-15, 17-18, and 20.

To expedite the allowance of the subject application, independent claims 11 and 41 have been amended to include all the features in the allowable claim 12. Claims 14-17 have been amended to depend on claim 11 in view of the cancellation of claim 12. New claims 42 and 43 have been add to depend from independent claim 41 and recite additional features in the allowable claims 14 and 23. No new matter has been added.

In view of the above claim amendments, independent claim 11, all its dependent claims 14-15, 17-18, and 20, as well as new claims 42-43 are in condition for allowance, in addition to the allowed claims 21-24, 26-27, and 29-40.

Rejoinder of Claims 16, 19, 25, and 28

With respect to the withdrawn claims, claims 16 and 19 depend from independent claim 11 and thus include all the claim features in independent claim 11. Accordingly, claims 16 and 19 are proper for rejoinder in the present application when independent claim 11 is allowed.

¹ Claim 17 is listed in the Office Action as a non-elected claim. However, as is indicated in the Office Action issued April 6, 2007, claim 19 was among the non-elected claims, while claim 17 was subjected to examination.

Similarly, claims 25 and 28 depend from independent claim 21 and are thus proper for rejoinder in the present application when independent claim 21 is allowed.

Conclusion

Based on the above claim amendments and remarks, the present application is now in proper condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action to this effect and early passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner have any comments, questions, suggestions or objections, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned in order to facilitate reaching a resolution of any outstanding issues.

No fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our PTO Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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